
Journal Abstracts

The following abstracts are reprinted verbatim as they appear in the cited source.

Alaimo, K., Olson, C.M., Frongillo Jr., E.A., and Briefel, R.R. 2001. Food insufficiency, family income, and health in US preschool and school-aged children. *American Journal of Public Health* 91(5):781-786.

Objectives. This study investigated associations between family income, food insufficiency, and health among US preschool and school-aged children.

Methods. Data from the third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey were analyzed. Children were classified as food insufficient if the family respondent reported that the family sometimes or often did not get enough food to eat. Regression analyses were conducted with health measures as the outcome variables. Prevalence rates of health variables were compared by family income category, with control for age and gender. Odds ratios for food insufficiency were calculated with control for family income and other potential confounding factors.

Results. Low-income children had a higher prevalence of poor/fair health status and iron deficiency than high-income children. After confounding factors, including poverty status, had been controlled, food-insufficient children were significantly more likely to have poorer health status and to experience more frequent stomachaches and headaches than food-sufficient children; preschool food-insufficient children had more frequent colds.

Conclusions. Food insufficiency and low family income are health concerns for US preschool and school-aged children.

Benartzi, S. and Thaler, R.H. 2001. Naive diversification strategies in defined contribution saving plans. *The American Economic Review* 91(1):79-98.

There is a worldwide trend toward defined contribution saving plans and growing interest in privatized Social Security plans. In both environments, individuals are given some responsibility to make their own asset-allocation decisions, raising concerns about how well they do at this task. This paper investigates one aspect of the task, namely diversification. We show that some investors follow the “1/n strategy”: they divide their contributions evenly across the funds offered in the plan. Consistent with this naive notion of diversification, we find that the proportion invested in stocks depends strongly on the proportion of stock funds in the plan.

Bissonnette, M.M. and Contento, I.R. 2001. Adolescents’ perspectives and food choice behaviors in terms of the environmental impacts of food production practices: Application of a psychosocial model. *Journal of Nutrition Education* 33:72-82.

The objective of this study was to investigate adolescents’ perspectives about the environmental impacts of food production practices and whether these perspectives are related to their food choice. Food choice was operationalized as consumption and purchase of organic foods and locally grown foods. A survey questionnaire was administered to a convenience sample of adolescents and analyzed for descriptive information and relation-

ships among variables. Subjects were 651 ethnically diverse, urban and suburban high school senior students in a major metropolitan area. Variables of an Expanded Theory of Planned Behavior were measured including beliefs, attitudes, perceived social influences, motivation to comply, perceived behavioral control, self-identity, perceived responsibility, behavioral intention, and behavior. Descriptive statistics, Pearson correlation coefficients, and stepwise multiple regression analyses were used. Surveyed adolescents did not have strong or consistent beliefs or attitudes about the environmental impact of food production practices. Cognitive-motivational processes were at work, however, since their perspectives were significantly correlated with behavioral intentions and food choice behaviors. Behavioral intention was best accounted for by attitudes and perceived social influences (and perceived responsibility for organic food), and behavior was best accounted for by behavioral intentions, beliefs, and perceived social influences (and self-identity for local food). There is a need to make salient to adolescents the environmental impact of food production practices through both cognitive and experiential approaches.

Kennedy, E.T., Bowman, S.A., Spence, J.T., Freedman, M., and King, J. 2001. Popular diets: Correlation to health, nutrition, and obesity. *Journal of the American Dietetic Association* 101:411-420.

The objective of this study was to examine the association between a range of health and nutrition indicators

and popular diets. A total of 10,014 adults, aged 19 years and older, from the 1994-1996 Continuing Survey of Food [Intakes] by Individuals (CSFII) were used to examine the relationship between prototype popular diets and diet quality as measured by the healthy eating index (HEI), consumption patterns, and body mass index. The CSFII was included in the analyses. The authors found that diets high in carbohydrates and low in moderate fat tend to be lower in energy; the lowest energy intakes were those of the vegetarian diet.

Masuo, D., Fong, G., Yanagida, J., and Cabal, C. 2001. Factors associated with business and family success: A comparison of single manager and dual manager family business households. *Journal of Family and Economic Issues* 22(1):55-73.

The purposes of this article are: (1) to identify internal/micro-level factors associated with perception of family and business success, and (2) to compare single manager and dual manager family business households with respect to factors that contribute to their perceptions of business and family success. The data are from a nationally representative sample of 673 family business households. Using a two-stage least squares regression procedure, the results show a unique relationship between family success and business success. Family success positively impacts business success, but not vice versa, and predictors of family and business success vary widely between household types.

Rimal, A., Fletcher, S.M., McWatters, K.H., Misra, S.K., and Deodhar, S. 2001. Perception of food safety and changes in food consumption habits: A consumer analysis. *International Journal of Consumer Studies* 25(1):43-52.

The relationship between seven types of food safety concerns and the corresponding change in food consumption habits of 236 households in Georgia, USA was evaluated. Results showed a gap between food safety concerns and food consumption habits. Gaps were particularly evident in the cases of pesticide residues, animal drug residues, growth hormones and bacteria. For example, more than 54% of sample households were extremely concerned about pesticide residues, but only 35% actually took extreme precaution in buying items, considering this perceived threat. The study indicated that educating consumers about preventive methods to reduce food safety threats will lead to reduced concerns and changes in food consumption habits.

Teisl, M.F., Bockstael, N.E., and Levy, A. 2001. Measuring the welfare effects of nutrition information. *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 83(1):133-149.

Cost/benefit analysis justifies regulations altering the amount of health-related information presented to consumers. The current method of benefit analysis, the cost of avoided illness, is limited; it assumes the benefits of health-related information are adequately represented by changes

in illnesses. The manuscript develops a benefit estimation method to measure the welfare impacts of providing nutrient information. Nutrient labeling significantly affects purchase behavior but may not lead to increased consumption of healthy foods. Nutrient labeling may increase welfare without any change in health risk. Thus, the cost of avoided illness approach can under-estimate the social benefits of providing nutrient information.

Walden, M.L. 2001. Are two incomes needed to prosper today? Evidence from the 1960s to the 1990s. *The Journal of Consumer Affairs* 35(1):141-161.

Consumer Expenditure Survey data from 1960 to 1996 are used to examine trends in real consumption, real after-tax income, market work time, and real after-tax wages for single-earner and dual-earner households. Over the entire time period, most households experienced substantial improvements in measures of their prosperity. However, economic progress was considerably reduced when the comparison was from 1972 to 1996. Also, wage changes dominated changes in market work time over all time periods.